

96-87

MEMORANDUM

APR 16 1996

To: Lester Snow

From: Mike Stearns

Subject: Comments regarding drainage into San Joaquin River and Land Retirement

Date: April 12, 1996

Dear Lester:

The remarks of two individuals during the public comment agenda of the March 21st BDAC meeting emphasized to me that there are a lot of wild misconceptions held by probably a lot of people concerning the drainage entering the San Joaquin River and what is being done about it from the local level. To argue with people that make public comments that are full of untruths is fruitless. What I do hope will occur is the opportunity for the Grassland Basin water users to make a presentation to the BDAC members and staff. There is a great deal of effort going into correcting the drainage problems and it seems that people whose decisions will impact these efforts ought to have the opportunity to learn about them if they are not already familiar.

Regarding land retirement, again, there are already a lot of changes occurring in land management which accomplishes the same results. Much of this due to the drought and CVPIA. This is such a huge issue, particularly to the land owners, employees, businesses and communities that are being targeted. These communities deserve input at a locally held work shop, such as Los Banos.

Implementation of land management changes, land retirement, water conservation and drainage reduction will come from the local level. Water districts and drainage districts, working with their growers, are addressing these issues in the process of meeting the short term and long term goals and demands. They are in need of cooperation and assistance, not more mandates from above.

Please let me know if you see an opportunity for a presentation on drainage and a local workshop or scoping session to address the issues of land retirement, demand management, etc.